

Year. The organizers have stated, however, that the programmes will be kept on a low key, keeping in mind the loss of lives and properties due to the earthquake in Gujarat.

Fake currency notes

3500. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that fake currency notes are present in large quantities posing a threat to our economy;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb fake currency notes;

(c) whether any pattern has been established regarding their distribution, seizures and persons held possessing/dealing in fake currency notes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Nepal is becoming hub of these activities; and

(f) whether any proposal/plan exist to deal with it effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a), (c) and (d) Cases of circulation/seizure of fake currency notes are reported from time to time from various parts of the country. However, the recovery/seizure of fake currency notes is marginal in comparison to the total currency in circulation. Available information indicates that fake Indian currency notes are being clandestinely inducted into the country from across the Indo-Pak border and Indo-Nepal border, besides being fabricated in India through a variety of techniques involving the use of printing presses, colour photocopiers, scanners and colour printers.

(b) 'Police' and 'Public order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes

including cases of counterfeit currency is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Union Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) The Central Bureau of Investigation has created a special unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant so as to ensure that such currency notes are not smuggled into the country.
- (ii) A High Level Committee has been constituted with representations from the Department of Economic Affairs, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Home Affairs/National Security Council Secretariat, to go into the entire gamut of issues pertaining to the circulation of fake Indian currency.
- (iii) A six-member Fact Finding Committee was set up under the convenorship of Shri V.K. Gaikwad, Dy. General Manager, RBI, comprising experts on note-printing/currency paper etc. for examining the fake notes seized in the past in order to enable the Government to take remedial action vis-a-vis printing and security features. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under examination.
- (iv) RBI has been advised to go in for a publicity campaign about security features incorporated in the genuine notes.

The Reserve Bank of India has taken the following steps:

- (i) The security features of Rs.500 denomination notes has been widely publicized in the print media to help the people detect fake notes.
- (ii) A film on security features of Rs.500 denomination notes produced in English, Hindi and other regional languages has been telecast on Doordarshan.
- (iii) For the benefit of public, a booklet has been brought out which *inter-alia*, describes the features of genuine notes. This booklet has been placed on the RBI website besides being available to the public for sale at RBI's issue offices.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of External Affairs have taken up the matter with His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Both the sides have expressed determination to take urgent necessary steps to prevent the misuse of Nepalese territory directed against India. Assam Saboor, Assistant UDC in the Pakistani Embassy in Kathmandu was caught on January 2, 2000 while trying to sell counterfeit Indian currency notes. On January 5, 2000 he was asked by the Government of Nepal to leave the country within 72 hours on account of "his involvement in an activity incompatible with his status". There have been other reports of arrests of Pakistani nationals in cases relating to circulation of fake currency in Nepal, which are being investigated by the concerned authorities in HMGN.

Arming Delhi Police to retaliate attack by criminals

3501. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that police cops in Delhi are not able to effectively retaliate attack on them by criminals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to arm the police cops well to face any such eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken to prevent occurrence of incidents of attack on Delhi Police Personnel include patrolling in groups of more than two police personnel; use of bullet proof jackets and suitable weapons while on raids and during search operations of dangerous criminals; deployment of armed personnel during regular patrols and investigation of sensitive cases; and imparting of training to the police personnel in the modern methods of frisking and searching of criminals.